

REMARKS

Applicants have attached a marked version of the claims in this application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants have also attached a clean copy of all pending claims in this application after amendments.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas D. Paul
Registration No. 32,714

Date: 5/10/01
Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P.
1301 McKinney, Suite 5100
Houston, Texas 77010-3095
Telephone: 713-651-5325
Telecopier: 713-651-5246

Docket No.: P02186US0

MARKED VERSION OF CLAIMS SHOWING AMENDMENTS

10. A method of assessing an agent for antibiotic activity comprising the steps of:
- a) incubating the micro-organism [any one] of claim[s] 1 [to 4] in the presence of the agent; and
 - b) observing expression of the reporter gene or genes.
11. (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the micro-organism is a *Bacillus* strain [of any one of]. as defined in claim[s] 4 [to 9] and is induced to sporulate in the presence of the agent.
12. (Amended) A method of determining whether an agent inhibits SpoIIIE function in *Bacillus* species, which method comprises inducing the *Bacillus* strain of claim[s] 5 [or claim 6,] to sporulate in the presence of the agent, and observing expression of the first and the second reporter gene.
15. (Amended) The method of [any one of] claim[s] 11 [to 14], wherein the *Bacillus* strain is induced to sporulate and is contacted, just prior to asymmetric cell division, with the agent.
16. (Amended) A panel of the micro-organisms of claim 1 wherein in different members of the panel genes have been partly or wholly replaced by homologous genes from different micro-organisms.

Docket No.: P02186US0

17. (Amended) [A] The method of claim 10, wherein a panel of micro-organisms as defined in claim 16 is incubated [assessing an agent for antibiotic activity, which method comprises incubation of the members of the panel of claim 10] in the presence of the agent, and expression of the reporter gene or genes is observed in different members of the panel.

18. (Amended) A method which comprises incubating a micro-organism of [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 9] in the presence of an agent, observing expression of the one or more reporter genes and thereby determining that the agent inhibits the growth of the micro-organisms, and using the agent as an antibiotic.

19. (Amended) A method of killing or inhibiting the growth of bacteria, which method comprises contacting the bacteria with an agent which inhibits the growth of a micro-organism of [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 9].